DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1.   This action is responsive to amendment filed on January 9, 2009 where claims 1-3,5-13

were pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

        Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Jared Engstrom (reg 58330) on 4/9/09.

        The application has been amended as follows:

SEE ATTACHED LISTING OF CLAIMS

Allowable Subject Matter

3.   Claims 1-3,5-10 and 14-21 are allowed.

4.   For reasons of Allowance see page 5 of Applicants remarks filed on 1/23/09.

        Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to RAMY M. OSMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-4008.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ramy M Osman/   April 12, 2009
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2457

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (**Currently Amended**) A **computer-implemented** method for a standby router protocol (SRP) comprising:

assigning a VLAN participating in an SRP to a membership in a VLAN domain, the VLAN domain having a master VLAN;

establishing a default route for the membership of the VLAN domain as determined by a virtual router with which the master VLAN is associated;

routing traffic for the VLAN in accordance with the domain master VLAN's default route;

establishing a bridge route between **physical** SRP routers supporting the virtual router to provide a redundant network path for [[an]] **a physical** end-host attached to [[an]] **a physical** SRP router via a host-specific port; and

sending an SRP message from one **physical** SRP router to another **physical** SRP router via the bridge route.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the default route is further determined by a current master of the virtual router.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising re-establishing the default route for the membership of the VLAN domain as determined by a new master of the virtual router elected in accordance with the SRP.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the SRP message is an Internet Protocol packet datagram unit (PDU).

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the PDU contains parameter data about a status of the end-host in a member VLAN.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the PDU contains parameter data about a status of a member VLAN in the VLAN domain.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the PDU contains parameter data about a status of the VLAN domain.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the member VLAN is a layer-2 subnet.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the domain master VLAN is a layer-2 subnet.

11-13. **(Cancelled)**

14.   **(New)** A computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon that, when executed, cause a computer to:

        assign a VLAN participating in an SRP to a membership in a VLAN domain, the VLAN domain having a master VLAN;

        establish a default route for the membership of the VLAN domain as determined by a virtual router with which the master VLAN is associated;

        route traffic for the VLAN in accordance with the domain master VLAN's default route;

        establish a bridge route between physical SRP routers supporting the virtual router to provide a redundant network path for a physical end-host attached to [[an]] a physical SRP router via a host-specific port; and

send an SRP message from one physical SRP router to another physical SRP router via the bridge route.

15.   (**New**) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, comprising further instructions that cause the computer to:

re-establish the default route for the membership of the VLAN domain as determined by a new master of the virtual router elected in accordance with the SRP.

16.   (**New**) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein the SRP message is an Internet Protocol packet datagram unit (PDU).

17.   (**New**) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the PDU contains parameter data about a status of the end-host in a member VLAN.

18.   (**New**) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the PDU contains parameter data about a status of a member VLAN in the VLAN domain.

19.   (**New**) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the PDU contains parameter data about a status of the VLAN domain.

20.   (**New**) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein the member VLAN is a layer-2 subnet.

21.   (**New**) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein the domain master VLAN is a layer-2 subnet.